Amendments to Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling processing over a heterogeneous computer network, said system comprising a financial resolution center adapted to receive a source identification data packet over the network from a network client, wherein the source identification data packet describes a task for which process execution upon a network host is requested by the client, and the financial resolution center is adapted to provide a task identity to the client before presenting a payload from the network client, wherein the task identity is indicative of the suitability of the task for process execution, and wherein the identities of the host and client are known only to the financial resolution center.

2. - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the network of computational devices comprises a network of multiple operating platforms.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the source identification data packet comprises:

an identification data set relating to the identity of the network client; and

a request data set relating to the task.

7. (Original) The system as recited in claim 6, wherein the identification data set comprises:

a client identification data set; and

a requestor identification data set, wherein the requestor is a user of the client.

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8. (Original) The system as recited in claim 6, wherein the request data set comprises:

a credit request data set relating to an estimated budget for the task; and

a resource request data set related to the estimated resources for the task.

9. (Original) The system as recited in claim 6, wherein the request data set further comprises a criteria data set relating to the task

10. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 8, wherein a the task identity comprises a financial charging authorization identity, wherein the financial charging authorization identity is uniquely identified with a resource request data set related to the estimated resources for the task.

11. (Original) The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the task identity corresponds to an authentication key, wherein the authentication key is uniquely identified with the resource request data set.

12. (Original) The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the financial charging authorization identity comprises:

a credit limit data set related to the credit available to the task; and

a client credit data set related to the credit history of the client.

13. (Original) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the authentication key is void upon the termination of the task.

14. (Original) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the authentication key comprises a PKI key pair.

15. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the financial resolution center comprises a computational device.

16. (Original) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the financial resolution center comprises a processor, a storage device, an evaluation program, and a task identity creation program.

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17. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the evaluation program is adapted to analyze the contents of the source ~~ID~~ identification data packet.

18. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 9, wherein ~~the network further comprises a~~ network host is adapted to process a task defined by the request data set.

19. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the network further comprises a network server adapted to enable the network client and the network host to negotiate a price for the process execution related to the task, wherein the client and host remain anonymous to one another.

20. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 12, wherein the client credit data set comprises:

      a client credit index related to ~~the client's~~ payment history of the client; and

      a credit authentication key to allow access to purchasing data associated with the client.

21. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the client associated with the task identity is known only to the financial resolution center and the client.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling processing over a heterogeneous computer network, said method comprising:

      receiving a source identification data packet from a network client wherein the source identification data packet describes a task for which process execution is requested by the client

      evaluating the source identification data packet; ~~and~~

      providing a task identity to the network client prior to the network client forwarding data over the network to a network server, wherein the task identity is adapted to indicate suitability of the task for process execution by a network host connected to the client and server over the network; and

      maintaining identity of the client confidential from the host and identity of the host confidential from the client.

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23. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising maintaining confidentiality as to the identity of the network client associated with the task-identifieridentity.

24. (Original) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein receiving a source identification data packet comprises:

receiving a client identification data set;

receiving a credit request data set relating to an estimated budget for the task; and

receiving a resource request data set related to the estimated resources for the task.

25. (Original) The method as recited in claim 24, wherein evaluating the source identification data packet comprises:

validating a client identified by the client identification data set included in the source identification data packet; and

verifying the availability of the credit requested by the credit request data set included in the source identification data packet.

26. (Original) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein providing a task identity to the network client comprises:

providing a financial charging authorization identity, wherein the financial charging authorization identity is uniquely identified with the task described by the source identification packet; and

providing a task authentication key wherein the authentication key is uniquely identified with the task described by the source identification packet.

27. (Original) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein providing the financial charging authorization identity comprises:

    providing a credit limit data set related to the credit available to the task; and

    providing a client credit data set related to the credit history of the client.

28. (Original) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein providing the client credit data set comprises:

    providing a client credit index related to the client's payment history;

    providing a client credit authentication key to allow access to purchasing data associated with the
        client.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable carrier medium, comprising:

    first programming instructions executable on a computational device for receiving a source
        identification data packet from a network client;

    second programming instructions executable on the computational device for evaluating the
        source identification data packet;

    third programming instructions executable on the computational device for providing a task
        identity to the network client; and

    fourth programming instructions executable on the computational device for forwarding a task to
        a network host while maintaining the identities of the client and host confidential from
        each other.

30. (Original) The computer-usable carrier medium as recited in claim 29, wherein the task identity comprises a unique task authentication key.